

So encourage each other and build each other up, just as you are already doing.

Matthew Road Baptist Church ... a place to call home

HOME PAGE

JUNE

VOLUME 11 ISSUE 6

Trials, Suffering, and the Glory of God

Much of our lives are spent in the day to day tasks of the mundane. We hit the snooze button a few times and drag ourselves out of bed. We get ready for school, work, church, or a day of leisure. Throughout the day the normal stresses of our work-a-day life keep us busy. Some days are more stressful than others. For the student, exams, papers or even a tough final, make for unusually hard moments that break us from simply going through the motions. For the parent, school projects, Field Day, transitions from one grade to another penetrate the monotony of the normal five days a week churn. For most of our lives, we spend the majority of our days, weeks, months, and even years in a pattern of relatively normal hustle and bustle. There are moments that shatter this pattern, that push us to our knees, that cause us to take pause, and truly contemplate the meaning of it all.

This past weekend in Mexico, we delivered the systematic theology books along with the cards and letters from Matthew Road members to the pastors there. It is always so encouraging to connect with our friends who serve the church so faithfully in conditions that are often much more difficult than ours. Often they describe daily struggles that feel much weightier than what many of us face daily. We have had pastors pulled over by the cartels on their journey to or from the conference. Some have been threatened with extortion or kidnapping. Others struggle daily with the financial challenges of pastoring a small church in their context. Many have family stresses much like we do. It's a battle to get to school and work on time. It's a battle to get homework completed and handle life transitions gracefully.

This weekend provided new opportunities to hear some of their trials. One pastor informed us that he has been pastoring a church that was about an hour drive from his home. Four weeks ago, when he returned from a Sunday of leading the church, he discovered that the cartels had taken over his home. His family is currently living in the church. They have essentially lost everything with no recourse. Our theology collides with our experience in this moment. Here is a family serving God with integrity and yet they are plunged into trouble at the hands of evil men. They will likely never recover any of the financial losses associated with this injustice. Additionally, the constant emotional press due to the violation on such a personal level will likely be with them for quite some time. How are we to understand these things? Where is God in the midst of their suffering? Why would he allow sin to reign over this family and their church?

We read in the New Testament that none of these things surprise God. When Jesus taught His disciples not to worry about tomorrow, He told them, "each day has enough trouble of its own." On the night Christ was betrayed into the hands of the religious leaders, the night before His crucifixion, He told the disciples, "In the world you have tribulation, but take courage; I have overcome the world." There is not promise of trouble free living because we are followers of Christ. There is no Christian exemption card to trials and no "get out of tribulation" pass. All kinds of trials come into the lives of Christians. Some face greater persecution because of their faith in Christ. Others face trouble because of the sinful, fallen world that permeates every facet of our lives. There are even those who will suffer at the hands of illness or injury not perpetrated directly from the hands of wicked people.

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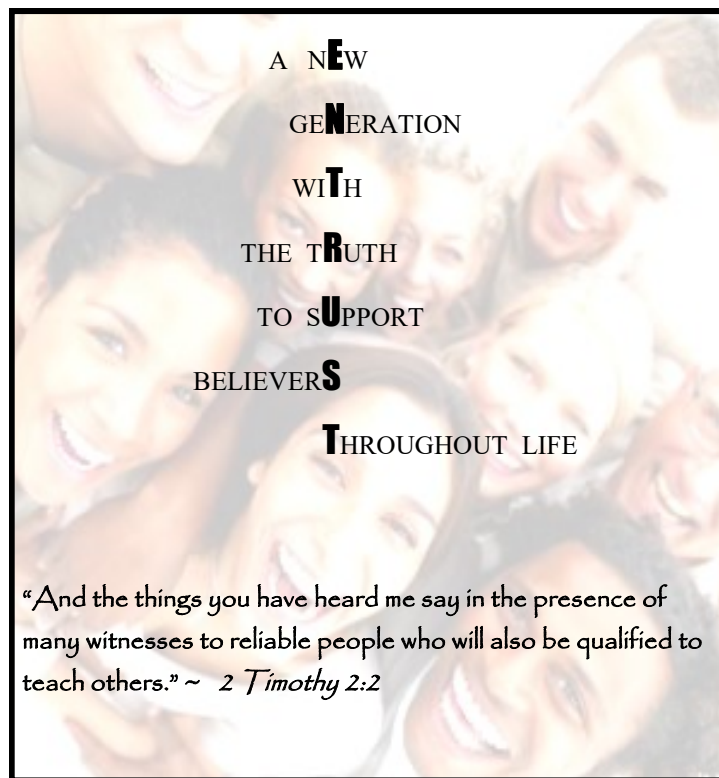
All of these, every type of trial and tribulation, is used by God for His glory and for our character. This theological underpinning prompted James to write the church, “consider it all joy when you encounter various trials...” Joy undergirds the heart of the believer when facing trials. Why? How can this be? Because of what we know. We know that God works through our trials to bring glory to His name and everlasting joy to His children. Paul, who also suffered greatly for his faith, wrote to the church at Corinth, “Therefore we do not lose heart, but though our outer man is decaying, yet our inner man is being renewed day by day. For momentary, light affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory far beyond all comparison, while we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen; for the things which are seen are temporal, but the things which are not seen are eternal.” These trials are temporary, momentary. These trials, as weighty as they feel, are light in comparison to the weight of glory. Our hearts break, and rightly so, for the injustices directed at our brothers and sisters around the world. Our hearts break when various trials and difficulties come to fellow believers due to disease or illness or financial calamity. God’s heart breaks too. However, He doesn’t lose the trial to the sands of time. He preserves it in heaven with a much greater and longer-lasting “weight of glory.” One day the dawn will break on eternity and we will feel the shackles of this broken world fall from our lives forever. On that day, the greatest pain suffered by believers in this life will seem small and temporary as the fullness of the glory of God permeates that moment. Until then, we watch and pray, walking faithfully with Him in good times and in bad.

~ Daniel

20Somethings



Contact Rachel at rachel@matthewroad.org
to find out the latest events & activities!



20Somethings Retreat
COMING SOON

Text Rachel @ 972-965-9970 for info!



Summer Wednesday Night Bible Study



Sanctuary, 6:45pm

**June 6th, 13th, 20th and 27th - Sharing the Gospel
led by Brady Blevins**

- June 6, Session 1: *What is the Gospel, what does it mean for someone to become a believer, and how do we share it with others?*
- June 13, Session 2: *How does church planting function in the work of evangelism?*
- June 20, Session 3: *Handling common objections and hindrances to the Gospel.*
- June 27, Session 4: *Short term missions and sharing the Gospel in that context, challenges and tools.*

**July 18th, 25th, August 1st, 8th and 15th - Bible Storying
led by Tom Reed**

Since the Reformation, Protestants have assumed that salvation, spiritual growth, leadership and reproducible ministry all depended on high levels of literacy. Not all people, however, prefer to learn and grow in this way, or even have access to it. Does this mean they can not believe, grow, lead or minister? Those who don't learn by literate means prefer oral methods: story and dialogue, song, dance, drama, proverbs, and riddles. Tom will demonstrate storying and dialogue as a highly reproducible way to get the Word of God into the hearts of people without depending on literacy.

Chronological Bible Storying allows a person to build ministry competence around a series of stories chosen for a theme, for example, "Genesis to Jesus" or "The Life of Jesus" or "How to be a Disciple." Situational Bible Storying applies a specific story or set of stories to a specific person or situation. Dialogue, or guided question-and-answers, draws out the story's meaning and application. In the end, a person will know the story, its meaning, and be able to tell it to others and guide them with dialogue in the same way. Story by story, brick by brick, your bible knowledge, theological understanding, and ministry competence grows. And it's all in your head and ready to use at any time. You won't ever have to think, "Wait. I used to know that. It's in my notes at home ..."

Children's Ministry



Every year we take kids to camp who really want to go, may or may not be new to our church, and cannot afford the expense. We rely on the church to help get these kids there. If you're interested in providing a camp scholarship for someone in need, please contact Brittany.



Sunday School

Join us every Sunday morning from 9:45am-10:45am as we journey through the Gospel Project.

*Sunday Nights, 5:30pm
Education Building
2nd floor*



For kids in kindergarten through 6th grade - Join us for games on the front lawn (weather permitting) followed by girls and boys Bible studies focused on becoming disciples who go into the world to make disciples.

Wild Week presents
"The Kingdom"
VBS 2018
July 9th - 13th
more info to come!

Women's Ministry



**Monthly
First Friday Lunch
at IHOP
(Carrier & I-20)
12:00pm**



Weekly Bible Studies:

Sunday mornings

Rachel Sullenger & Tiffany Marich -
Book of Acts, Library
Joy Richards & Chris Anderson -
Book of Acts, Choir Room

Sunday nights

Meg Trihus - the Epistles, Teller Room
Jamy Aldape - "Voice of God, (begins July 8th)

Wednesday Nights

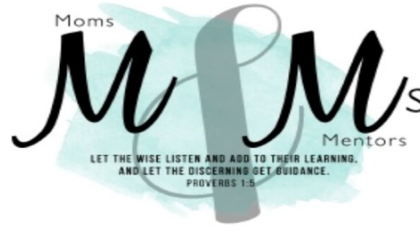
Cyndi King - Book of Acts, Conference Room

Friday

Cyndi King - 9:00 am -
Book of Acts, Chick Fil A (Camp Wisdom Location)
Jamy Aldape - 11:00am -
"Voice of God", Teller Room (begins July 6th)

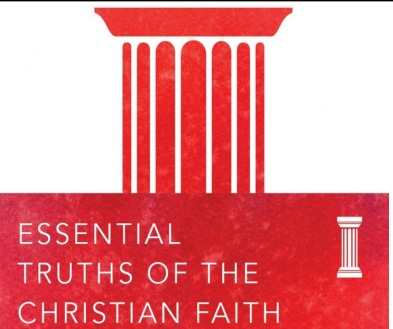
DISCERNING THE
*Voice
of God*

*Fridays at 11:00am
and
Sundays at 5:00pm
Begins 7.6.18
Leader: Jamye Aldape
Book cost: \$16*



*"let the wise listen and add to their learning,
and let the discerning get guidance"*

**Moms & Mentors
First Mondays
Library 7:00pm
Contact Cyndi: 972.641.2717**



**Systematic - light
Wednesday's at 5:30pm
Childcare and snacks provided
Starts June 6th,
Fellowship Hall; first room**

Youth Ministry

June is here and it is the month of CAMP!!! If you have not finalized your camp payment you need to do that no later than June 6th!! Yes, we pushed back the payment date due to many students not having money in! Also, please note that the dates for camp have changed to June 11th - 16th. Parents and students are required (unless previously discussed with me) to attend the camp meeting on ONE of the following dates:

1. Sunday, June 3rd, there are 2 opportunities for parents and students to come to the mandatory camp meeting.
 - a. Immediately after the 11 o'clock service
 - b. Also at 4:30 in Common Grounds.
2. If unable to attend, there will be a last chance camp meeting on Wednesday, June 6th, at 5:30.

*****YOU MUST ATTEND ONLY 1 OF THESE 3, NOT ALL 3*****

3. I did want to make you aware of our mission trip dates which will be July 24 - 30. Our mission trip will be to Pike Road Alabama (cost is \$200) We are only taking 20 students (10 high school and 10 middle schoolers) so please sign up as soon as possible. We will be helping in planning and running a VBS for the community of Pike Road.
4. During the summer (June and July) we have Wednesday night lights! After our AveNew worship service we will be playing games, eating popsicles, and having a great time of fellowship. Your student won't want to miss a Wednesday night event this summer!

As always, if you have any questions or concerns about the upcoming events, please don't hesitate to contact me.



In Christ, Matt Brown
email: matt@matthewroad.org cell ph #: 832-955-4954

June 2018 Events & Activities

For more information, please see our website, www.matthewroad.org, or call the church office at 972-641-2717.

- June 3rd:** "Experiencing God: The Musical" Choir Special, AM Services
Youth Camp Parent Meeting, 12:15pm & 4:30pm, CommonGrounds
- June 6th:** Youth Camp Parent Meeting, 5:30pm, CommonGrounds
- June 7th:** Young @ Heart Breakfast at Outlaws, 8:30am
- June 10th:** Deacon Meeting, 4:30pm, Conference Room
- June 11th - 14th:** Preteen Camp, see Brittany for info
- June 11th - 16th:** Youth Camp, see Matt
- June 11th:** Preteen Campers meet to leave, 8:00am, CommonGrounds
- June 14th:** Preteen Campers return pick-up, 12:00pm, CommonGrounds
- June 15th:** Parents Night Out, 6:30am - 11:00pm, Worship Center, must RSVP to cyndikking@msn.com
- June 26th - June 30th:** Women's Ministry Retreat, please Rachel

Regular Weekly Activities

Sundays

Morning Worship	8:30 & 11:00am
Morning Bible Study (all ages)	9:45am
Evening Bible Study (all ages)	5:30pm
7:17 Service	6:45pm

Mondays

K2 Primary Academy (during the school year)	8:45am
PAW Program	9:00am

Tuesdays

MRA (during the school year)	8:30am
Young @ Heart Activities	9:45am

Wednesdays

K2 Primary Academy (during the school year)	8:45am
PAW Program	9:00am
Collide (youth)	6:30pm
Adult Choir (during the school year)	6:30pm
AWANA Club (children)	6:30pm
Adult Bible Studies	6:45pm

Thursdays

MRA (during school year)	8:30am
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Fridays

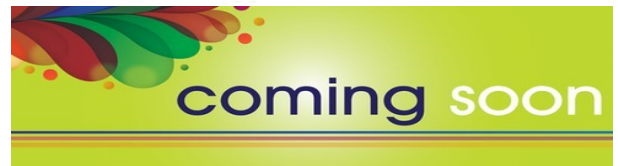
Chick Time, at Chick-Fil-A (Camp Wisdom)	9:00am
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Saturdays

Men's Coffee Group (Good Day Café, GP)	7:30am
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Average Attendance for May

Morning Service: 344 717 Service: 101



Preteen Camp
June 11th - 14th

Youth Camp
June 11th - 16th

VBS
July 9th - 13th
"The Kingdom"

Women's Summer Retreat
June 26th - 30th

Women's Conference
September 22nd

Preteen & Youth Retreats
November 11th - 12th

*Check out our website at
www.matthewroad.org
for more info about all our events!*

Financials as of May 19, 2018

Budget Income	\$ 388,123
Budget Expense	\$ (382,771)
Net Budget	\$ 5,352